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Europäisches Patentamt
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(11) Publication number:

0 189 329
A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 86300490.9

(51) Int. Cl.⁴: **A 61 B 17/22**
A 61 B 17/39

(22) Date of filing: 24.01.86

(30) Priority: 25.01.85 US 694746

(43) Date of publication of application:
30.07.86 Bulletin 86/31

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report: 03.06.87

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT SE

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(54) **A tunneling catheter system for transluminal arterial angioplasty.**

(57) A tunneling catheter system for percutaneous transluminal angioplasty which includes a catheter (10) for advancement through a patient's arterial system to the vicinity of an arterial stenosis and tunneling means (40) disposed within the catheter for tunneling through the arterial stenosis. Means (20) for centering the catheter and for various methods of tunneling through the catheter are also provided.

EP 0 189 329 A3



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which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention
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EP 86 30 0490

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	US-A-3 565 062 (A. KURIS) * Figures 3-6,8; claims 1-6,14,17, 24-29,36,47,50,51 *	1,5,6, 8-10, 18-20	A 61 B 17/22 A 61 B 17/39
Y	---	7,15-17,21	
Y	DE-A-2 521 719 (DELMA GmbH) * Figures 1,7 *	7,21	
P,X	DE-A-3 406 294 (H. HUBMANN) * Figures 1-5b,9-15,22,23,27b,29; claims 2-4,8-10,19,23,24,31,44-50 *	1-5,7-14	
P,Y	---	15-17	
P,A	DE-A-3 402 573 (V. SCHUBERT) * Figures 1,7,9 *	1-5,8, 11,12	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) A 61 B
INCOMPLETE SEARCH ./. The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims. Claims searched completely: 1-21 Claims searched incompletely: Claims not searched: 22-26 Reason for the limitation of the search: Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy (see art. 52(4) of the European Patent Convention).			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 13-02-1987	Examiner ARGENTINI
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



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Application number
EP 86 30 0490

- 2 -

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US-A-2 943 626 (E. DORMIA) * Figure 3 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)